

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 650

By Black

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the congregation of Bible Baptist Church upon their fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; one such dynamic community of faith is Bible Baptist Church, the members of which, are celebrating the church's fortieth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of Bible Baptist Church will be celebrating the church's anniversary on July 24-26, 2009, with several spiritually centered events, including a concert with the band Great Vision on Friday night, a barbeque cookout on Saturday, and culminating with a Sunday morning service of celebration with the Lord; and

WHEREAS, founded by Carl Frensley, Jr., Bible Baptist held its first service in the Phillips Robinson Chapel in 1969; sixty people arrived that summer day to worship and fellowship, and a year later, services were being held in the basement of the present church facility; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, just three short years after its first service, Bible Baptist members witnessed the completion of a three-hundred-seat auditorium, necessary to accommodate the rapidly growing congregation; the Hendersonville Christian Academy opened its doors to students in September 1977; and

WHEREAS, the fellowship hall was completed in 1989, and in 1993 the church office complex was finished; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 Pastor Frensley retired, and Pastor James P. Crockett assumed the pulpit of Bible Baptist; his tenure has coincided with a significant expansion of the church, especially its mission programs, which today support 108 missionaries in fifty-one countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Biblical Counseling Center opened in October 2001, and in the past eight years, Dr. Applegate has worked with over seven hundred families from the local community as well as pastors and members from other churches across the country; and

WHEREAS, in November 2003, Bible Baptist purchased land on New Shackle Island Road for a future church and expanded Hendersonville Christian Academy; and

WHEREAS, the Oasis International Ministry was established in 2005 as an outreach to encourage pastors and missionaries; Dr. Applegate has helped many hurting and wounded missionary families from countries in Eastern Europe; and

WHEREAS, through the Oasis Ministry, established in June 2006, Bible Baptist provides a time of encouragement to ministers; through a week-long, intensive period of care and prayer, ministers and their wives receive much-needed support and new vigor as they trudge the happy road of service to their church and God; and

WHEREAS, since its humble beginnings forty years ago, the church leaders and congregation at Bible Baptist Church have faithfully striven to carry out God's work in the world and continue in their mission and Christian endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Bible Baptist Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of their community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the fortieth anniversary of Bible Baptist Church,

thank the members of this congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their community, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.